

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 2, 2012

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Denise Arsenault, Chair, Karen Lynch and Susan Rancourt

School Committee and Administration: Marjorie McBride, Melinda Thies and Mario Andrade

Public: Donna Larson and Tara Thibaudeau

Denise Arsenault called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the March 5, 2012 meeting; Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Signage on School Buildings

Donna Larson and Tara Thibaudeau said the Kickemuit PTO would like to honor Mike Carbone for his service to the building by hanging a sign that reads “You Do Make a Difference – Michael Carbone”, the cost of which would be covered by PTO funds. They would place it either on the exterior of the building on the cement façade over the glass doors at the entrance from the parking lot, or inside the foyer,

centered above the office and mailbox area.

Intentionally, there is no School Committee policy on this so that each request can be considered by the Committee individually. The School Committee has authority over changes to the interior of buildings; the Towns have authority over the exteriors. The current members of the Policy Subcommittee agreed it is best not to develop a policy in order to preserve the ability to make individual decisions.

It was suggested and agreed that the PTO would take their request to the Warren Town Council to place a sign on the exterior of the building, and if denied, make a request to the School Committee for interior placement.

Donna Larson left the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug (TAOD) Policy for Students (JFCH)
Melinda's correction of an old clerical error in Section IV of the TAOD policy, which came to light during a student hearing, came before the Committee on March 25 and was withdrawn so Andrew Henneous could address some concerns. Andrew's suggested amendments were reviewed.

RIDE does not allow community service to be mandated; it can be an option (ex. serve detention or community service). State law 16-21.5

addresses student interrogations; there are separate procedures for interrogating elementary students and high school students. Administrators do their own investigation; if an illegal substance is involved, the police do their own investigation; this dovetails into the function of the SRO.

Further clarification on the handling of “Possession, sale, solicitation, transfer, or attempted sale, transfer, solicitation of a Controlled Substance to another person” is needed; selling and transfer are perceived as infractions of greater severity than possession and should be subject to different consequences. Melinda will seek Andrew’s legal opinion on this and disseminate Andrew’s comments to the Subcommittee. Denise will refine the wording of the policy and share her recommendations with Karen and Susan. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Tara Thibaudeau left the meeting at 6:15 PM.

School Resource Officer

The original MOU signed in 1993 by the Warren Police Chief, Superintendent and High School Principal, was not signed by the Bristol Police Chief because he felt it would prevent the officer from operating as a police officer in the school; at the time, the position was funded by a grant; the current SRO is paid by the Bristol Police Department. A subsequent MOU between the Bristol Police and the

District, delineating the duties and responsibilities and desired outcomes, was fully executed in 2003.

Melinda needs to have discussion with the Bristol and Warren Police Chiefs about the role and jurisdiction of the SRO; their role in the school should be to build a sense of outreach to students, counseling and education; that officer should never participate in an investigation at the school. There is a national association of SROs but Rhode Island does not subscribe; there is formalized training for such positions; in some districts the SROs do not wear their police uniform. Karen had asked some high school students how they felt about the SRO; some felt the uniform was not threatening, most felt he was approachable.

Melinda continues to reinforce the role of the SRO with high school administration; there has been discussion about moving the location of the SRO to a more private office area; all felt providing confidential access would encourage more student involvement.

Melinda will meet with the Police Chiefs to determine if a job description, an MOU and/ or a policy should be developed. Although the MOU is labeled an “exhibit” (JFC-E) it will not be removed from the policy books for the time being.

Marj McBride left the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Educator Evaluation System

Melinda has added the “parameters and safeguards” piece. We need to reinforce alignment with the RI model and elucidate the philosophy behind the model. Further, we are also charged with creating a district evaluation committee, provide an appeals process (for which guidelines are coming from RIDE) and provide supports for struggling teachers. “Educator” refers to classroom teachers, support personnel and building administrators.

Suggestions:

- Be more specific on what can be grieved**
- State who is qualified to be an evaluator**

RIDE has recently indicated the post-evaluation conference may be dropped.

Further development and discussion will continue.

Superintendent's Evaluation

The policy itself needs to be addressed, as well as the timeline and the tool. The Superintendent's and the School Committee's goals must be aligned, but the Committee does not have goals. Melinda expects to be held to the same standards as the teachers and she favors the guidance from RIASC. An objective facilitator who knows the system and can moderate would be worth the expense. All agreed the instrument is an issue.

Establishment of School Committee goals is critical in order to move forward. Denise will speak with John Bento about setting up a 6-hour time block, possibly some Monday starting at 4:00 PM; maximum participation is essential. Melinda will contact the facilitator used by EBEC for his availability. The Superintendent's evaluation policy should be revised concurrently with School Committee goals, building on RIASC guidelines and embedding the timeline.

Tentative timeline:

May – School Committee Goals

June – Superintendent's goals and evaluation with quarterly updates

July – Superintendent reviews administrators' goals

Karen and Susan will meet to develop a suitable timeline then share it with Denise.

Next Meeting

May 7, 2012 at 6:00 PM

- Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (JFCH)**
- Educator Evaluation System – continue discussion**
- Superintendent's Evaluation – continue discussion**
- SRO Policy – continue discussion**

Adjournment

MOTION: At 7:45PM Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn; Susan Rancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca